

Good evening, everyone. My name is Carsen Sulzer, and I am currently a second year medical student at UConn. I have been living in Farmington, CT since I began medical school in August 2015. I wanted a chance to speak with you all tonight for several reasons. Firstly, our school is able to offer unimaginable opportunities to its students. Of course, all of UConn's students are experiencing an opportunity of a lifetime, one that many others in this country wish they could receive. However, I would like to share with you the unique opportunity UConn offered me as an incoming student.

I grew up in NY's Hudson Valley, where all of my family resides, and attended college in Western NY. I never thought I would leave my home state. UConn was one of the only out-of-state medical schools to which I applied. I attended the interview I was offered, and I still remember looking at the cost of tuition for out-of-state students; I could *not* afford this. I knew financial aid was available, but it seemed like the debt would be insurmountable. At this point in the process, I accepted that an out-of-state school would simply not work for my financial situation. That was until I received a phone call from UConn a few days after my acceptance, incidentally on my birthday.

My first thought upon seeing a CT number was that the school was calling to say that my acceptance was a mistake. I felt like I had won the lottery when I was instead told that the school would like to offer me a full scholarship. UConn went out on a limb with me; they offered this scholarship to a girl from NY who really had almost no intention of attending medical school in CT. Well, here I am now and I don't think I could have made a better decision. I look forward to pursuing residency programs and later practicing medicine in CT due to the positive experiences I've had since arriving. UConn's generous offer has gained the state at least one dedicated future physician, and, looking into tonight's audience, I am sure I'm not the only one.

I want to ensure that UConn will be able to continue offering these life-altering opportunities to future students. I would not be here today if UConn did not have the funding to offer this scholarship. UConn is not just a school, it is an entire community; students and faculty alike work tirelessly to make UConn the best educational facility that it can be, and I fear that the proposed cuts will negatively impact the future growth of our school. Continuous improvement is an absolute necessity in today's rapidly advancing world of medicine. Please give our institution the opportunity to continue evolving with the rest of the country's top medical schools. In closing, I would like to offer you all a question: What would you consider a more valuable investment than the state's future physicians, and ultimately the health of its people? Thank you for your time.